

Prepared Comments to the Joint Transportation, Highways and Military Affairs Committee
May 4, 2022
By Richard Garrett, State Government Relations Director, WY – American Heart Association

Good afternoon Chairman Landen, Chairman Burkhart and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today and to comment in support of your interim topic - *Emergency Medical Dispatch Certification which is provided for through the use of ARPA Funds*.

- My name is Richard Garrett; I am the state government relations director for the American Heart Association.
- For 96 years, the American Heart Association has been committed to reducing cardiovascular disease and stroke and improving the health of all Americans by funding innovative research, providing tools and information to save and improve lives, and fighting for strong public health policies.
- One goal of the proposed interim topic is to ensure that all of Wyoming's emergency dispatchers receive training that will result in their certification to provide professional services to emergency callers, which in turn, will result in more lives saved.
- One of these training elements is *Telecommunicator Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (T-CPR)*, a life-saving procedure that provides uniform standards for Telecommunicator CPR training across Wyoming.
- We support T-CPR because it empowers telecommunicators, who are our true first responders, to work with callers, to keep the brain and heart alive until EMS arrives to provide professional interventions.
- While hundreds of thousands across the country fall victim to a heart related emergency each year, only about 1 in 10 survive. We know that the first two links in the chain of survival are 9-1-1 and CPR, these links can double or even triple the chance of survival.
- Consistent implementation of T-CPR can benefit so many and particularly those who live or recreate in rural areas. The American Heart Association offers guidelines for the effective implementation of TCPR which are available at this [link](#).
- We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity -- we know that while 911 is frequently accessed, most individuals do not receive bystander CPR and must instead wait for EMS services to arrive.
- In emergencies like these, literally every second can mean the difference between life and death.
- T-CPR is an effective and cost-efficient approach to ensure that more people who live in and visit our beautiful state will have access to these vital interventions. I urge the committee to continue to support a bill.
- Thank you for your time and consideration of T-CPR and for all of your work for the state of Wyoming.



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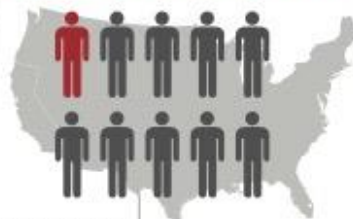
Telecommunicator-CPR (T-CPR): Enhancing the Cardiac Arrest Chain of Survival



American
Heart
Association

The Problem

Every year, more than **350,000 Americans** fall victim to out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA). Unfortunately, only about **1 in 10 victims survive** this dramatic event.



Early access to 9-1-1 and CPR are the first two links in the Chain of Survival. Early lay rescuer CPR approximately **doubles the chances of survival**.

However, while 9-1-1 is frequently called, **the majority of individuals experiencing out-of-hospital cardiac arrest do not receive CPR.**



Increasing Survival

As the **first link in the Chain of Survival**, telecommunicators must **partner with callers to quickly identify a cardiac arrest and, in turn, provide T-CPR instructions** while rapidly dispatching the appropriate medical response.



Chain of Survival

Successful resuscitation of cardiac arrest victims requires the time-sensitive, expert care described by each of the links in the Chain of Survival:



Early access to
emergency medical
services (EMS)

Early lay
rescuer CPR

Early
defibrillation

Early
advanced care

Post-resuscitation
care to facilitate
rehabilitation and
recovery

The first two links in the chain, **early access to EMS and lay rescuer CPR**, provide the foundation for subsequent treatment and are **critical for successful resuscitation**.